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SUBJECT: EASTERN DRC NOTES - JANUARY 13

¶1. (U) The items contained in this report consist principally of spot information from various sources. This report is not exhaustive, nor can all the information contained therein be confirmed at this time.

#### FDLR Issues

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¶2. (SBU) MONUC Force Commander Gaye told Goma PolOff, MIST team members, and State Department contractor Nicholas Jenks on January 12 that FARDC operations against the FDLR would begin "very soon," perhaps on February 1. Gaye has not seen the operational plan developed by the GDRC and the GoR, but expects that MONUC will be asked to play a supporting role. He added that MONUC has come into contact with FDLR fighters who are aware they will be targets and are showing increasing willingness to return to Rwanda.

¶3. (SBU) Gaye expects that the FDLR will retaliate against civilians in the event of operations, seeking to provoke an international outcry against the atrocities as a means to pressure the GDRC and GoR to halt the attacks. Colonel Cunliffe of MONUC added that the organization is likely to be criticized for failing to protect civilians, despite being left out of the planning process.

#### Security Issues in North Kivu

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¶4. (SBU) UN security officials reported fighting between CNDP and Mai-Mai forces in Mabenga, Rutshuru Territory, on January 9 and 10. Firefights also ensued between FARDC and Mai-Mai soldiers in Beni, Beni Territory, and Kirumba, Lubero Territory, following FARDC attempts to disarm Mai-Mai militia members. One Mai-Mai member and one FARDC soldier were killed.

¶5. (SBU) On January 9, MONUC reported CNDP fighter buildups in Tongo and Nyanzale, west of Rutshuru town, Rutshuru Territory, as well as in Kirolirwe, Masisi Territory. In addition, CNDP and PARECO forces clashed near the IDP camp in Kanyatsi, Masisi Territory, according to MONUC. MONUC efforts to sensitize PARECO soldiers to respect the integrity of IDP camps continued in Kibirizi, western Rutshuru Territory.

¶6. (SBU) On January 12, the Norwegian Minister of Defense met with MONUC and humanitarian partners in Goma to discuss the security situation and status of MONUC operations.

#### Security Issues in Orientale Province

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¶7. (SBU) According to international media sources, on January 9, the LRA attacked the village of Kana, east of Faradje, killing 15

people. Media sources also reported that on January 11, approximately 100 LRA fighters attacked the market town of Sambia, 130 kilometers east of Dungu, killing an additional seven people.

18. (SBU) On January 9, the UN news service reported a January 8 attack in the same town, which prompted the displacement of 10,000 individuals. The same report noted the movement of 10,000 people from Niangara to Bangadi, between Dungu and Doruma. However, according to MONUC, the entire population had fled Bangadi before the LRA entered the town on January 9.

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